

My name is Brian Anderson. I am a legislative and political representative for Council 4 AFSCME, a union of 35,000 Connecticut public and private employee members.

Council 4 opposes HB 5097 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ENACT NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES.

This bill, similar to many others on today's hearing agenda, requires a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the General Assembly to pass a municipal mandate. Council 4 opposes this because it makes passing state law so cumbersome as to completely gridlock the process.

The General Assembly, similar to most democratic governing bodies, does the vast majority of its business using simple majority votes, rather than super majority votes. It reserves super majority votes for suspension of the rules, constitutional amendments and gubernatorial vetoes.

Using a super majority vote for the normal course of business would not only be unworkable. It would diminish democracy. It would give more power to a minority of legislators, rather than a majority.

Also, if the legislature were to choose this method to deal with municipal mandates, why not others? The legislature regularly passes mandates for non-profits, councils of government, quasi-public agencies, businesses, unions and individuals. If you are to pass any of these bills should not the super majority vote apply to these groups also?

If you do see fit to pass this bill, we request in the interest of fairness, that it be amended to require a 2/3 vote to remove or alter any existing municipal mandate. This should apply to changing prevailing rate, binding arbitration, employee benefits, dealing with evictions and the like.

Other bills, of this nature, that we oppose include:

Proposed H.B. No. 5099 AN ACT CONCERNING NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5101 AN ACT CONCERNING APPROVAL OF NEW UNFUNDED MANDATES BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Proposed H.B. No. 5172 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ENACT NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5241 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ENACT NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5273 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO ENACT MUNICIPAL MANDATES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5274 AN ACT CONCERNING UNFUNDED STATE MANDATES FOR MUNICIPALITIES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5438 AN ACT CONCERNING UNFUNDED MANDATES ON SCHOOLS AND MUNICIPALITIES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF UNFUNDED MANDATES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5528 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ENACT MUNICIPAL MANDATES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5529 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ENACT NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES.

Proposed H.B. No. 5532 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES.

Proposed S.B. No. 223 AN ACT CONCERNING UNFUNDED MANDATES.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions.